

violations of federal law or the Constitution. Further, Congress ought to allow courts to consider and make modifications of consent decrees in institutional reform cases any time a public official with an interest in the case has a good and compelling reason to seek changes. Finally, Congress should compel termination of decrees after a fixed time, unless plaintiffs demonstrate that current violations of law necessitating the continuation of the decree exist.

Reform by Congress of the general procedures governing judicial decrees in cases seeking reform of State and local government institutions along the lines suggested by Professor Sandler in his book will strengthen our State and local democratic institutions while ensuring the continued protection of constitutional and legal rights. I hope to look for opportunities to pursue and effectuate some of the proposals I have outlined above as the Senate considers relevant authorizing legislation. I hope many of my colleagues will join me in this effort.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FAMILY REUNION FESTIVAL AND ITS SPONSORS

• Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the Harriet Tubman Historical Society and the National Underground Railroad Family Reunion Festival. The William Still Underground Railroad Foundation, Inc. sponsors this national festival. Celebrating the rich history of those that sought their freedom and the freedom of others by following the North Star, the festival reunites families from throughout the country—particularly descendants of the many men and women who bravely constituted the Underground Railroad.

Descendants of William Still, who is considered by many to be the father of the Underground Railroad, have gathered to preserve their family's legacy for the past 133 years. They unite in celebration and in honor of Still and other pioneering gentlemen and gentlewomen who fought against the oppressive forces of slavery. William Still was a freeborn black who became a prominent abolitionist, writer, and businessman. Working tirelessly to free the enslaved and to destroy the very institution of slavery, William Still led perhaps the most dramatic system of protest our young Nation had ever seen.

As the birthplace of William Still and other notable abolitionists, New Jersey played a significant role in the success of the Underground Railroad. Offering an excellent cover of dense forests and heavy wilderness, our State provided various routes for Underground conductors. After crossing the Delaware River under the cloak of darkness, escaping slaves would travel

from Camden to Burlington, and then on to Bordentown. Runaways also came to Bordentown through the towns of Swedesboro and Woodbury. This path to freedom then ran north through the woodlands of Princeton and on to New Brunswick, a hub in the railroad that also received fugitives traveling from Trenton. Conductors then bore their travelers across the Raritan River—a perilous but pivotal crossing. From Rahway these exhausted and terrified slaves and their devoted guides traveled to Jersey City and into New York. These newly emancipated men, women, and children then continued their journey north, to Canada and to freedom. The Underground Railroad carried the hopes and dreams of hundreds of thousands. Many Americans risked their own lives and the lives of their loved ones in order to defend the beliefs that all are created equal and that liberty is a universal right.

Families and communities throughout New Jersey were vital to the liberation of countless slaves. The National Family Reunion Festival, sponsored by the Still family, seeks to provide a forum for generations, not only to preserve their due sense of pride, but to pass on the stories of their forebears' bravery to younger generations. The Still family boasts a proud American heritage that dates back 360 years. Fittingly, the Stills have spearheaded this year's 3-day festival. It is the first of its kind—a unique blend of history and culture, the past and the present, a commemoration of the historical fight against the enslavement of men and women and finally a celebration of the unity we seek and strive to create in our Nation every day. The National Underground Railroad Family Reunion Festival will bring together descendants of conductors, abolitionists, stationmasters, and fugitives along with those who joyously recognize the incredible courage with which the railroad ran and the invaluable justice for which it ran.

Mr. President, I invite you and my colleagues to join me in commending The William Still Underground Railroad Foundation, Inc. and the Harriet Tubman Historical Society for their spectacular efforts that honor the valorous deeds of abolitionists and keep the history and legacies of our great Nation alive.●

##### THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF COWETA, OKLAHOMA.

• Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I am pleased to inform my colleagues in the Senate today that the city of Coweta, in my home State of Oklahoma, is celebrating the centennial of its founding.

Coweta has a rich and proud history. From its beginning as a Native American settlement town to being one of the fastest growing cities in one of the fastest growing counties in Oklahoma, Coweta is truly a great place to live, work, and raise a family. It is a place

where values like faith, family, and community are lived daily by its residents. The spirit and character of Oklahoma are alive and well in Coweta.

It is my honor and privilege of help recognize and celebrate this occasion. Generations of residents have made Coweta a renewable place during its first 100 hundred years. Current and future generations will continue to make Coweta a special place for many years to come.

Congratulations to Coweta for celebrating this centennial.●

##### TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN CABELL

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mr. Stephen Cabell of Owensboro, KY. Earlier this year, Stephen was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

The Presidential Scholars in the Arts Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education to honor some of our Nation's most artistic and creative high school seniors. Each year, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts recommends a small number of exceptionally gifted students to this program. This year, only 16 students from across the country were named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. This honor rewards individuals who excel in various disciplines of the arts, including music, theater, dance, and visual arts. Stephen was awarded this honor in recognition of his musical composition genius.

Stephen Cabell was born in Owensboro, KY. During his freshman year of high school he was accepted into the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, a prestigious high school known for its contribution to the fine arts. While attending Interlochen, he studied horn, piano, and music composition. Stephen continues his love of music during his free time, when he tutors students in music theory, researches composers, and collects musical scores. He is the son of Steve and Mary Cabell of Owensboro, who I know are very proud of Stephen and his talent and commitment to music and perfection.

Since he was 8 years old, Stephen has been composing musical pieces. During his career he has won numerous awards. Stephen is a recipient of the Morton Gould Young Composers Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, ASCAP, as well as the Neil Robert Memorial Scholarship from the Interlochen Arts Academy. Groups such as the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra, Imani Winds, and the Interlochen Academy regularly perform his music. Most recently, Stephen performed one of his pieces at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in an event designed to showcase the talents of all 16 Presidential Scholars. In the fall, Stephen plans to study composition at the Curtis Institute of Music.